

STATE OF CALIFORNIA  
STATE WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD

In the Matter of the Petition of  
Mobil Oil Corporation for Review  
of Order No. 77-99 (NPDES Permit  
No. CA0053813) of the California  
Regional Water Quality Control  
Board, Los Angeles Region. Our  
File No. A-176.

Order No. WQ 79-4

BY THE BOARD:

Mobil Oil Corporation (petitioner) discharges process wastewater from its Torrance Refinery to the District No. 8 Joint Water Pollution Control Plant operated by the County Sanitation District of Los Angeles County (discharger). The plant has four outfalls to the Pacific Ocean.

On June 27, 1977, the California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Los Angeles Region (Regional Board) adopted Order No. 77-99 (NPDES Permit No. CA0053813) revising waste discharge requirements for the plant. The revised requirements apply the Table B effluent limitations, including total chromium, from the 1972 Ocean Plan to the discharge of waste from the plant. On July 28, 1977, a petition for review was filed with the State Water Resources Control Board (State Board) contending that the effluent limitation for total chromium was inappropriate. The petitioner is concerned that the total chromium limitations placed on the discharger will affect the level of pretreatment it will have to achieve and pay for.

## I. DISCUSSION

The State Board superseded the 1972 Ocean Plan by Resolution No. 78-2 (the 1978 Ocean Plan). The 1978 Ocean Plan differs in several major respects from the earlier 1972 Ocean Plan. One difference is that the 1978 Ocean Plan no longer specifies effluent limitations for the constituent in question. Rather the 1978 Ocean Plan specifies receiving water concentrations for chromium and requires that the discharger need only treat the waste to a level which will assure compliance with the specified receiving water concentrations.

By memo dated August 21, 1978, Larry F. Walker, Executive Director of the State Board advised the Regional Boards that the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) had approved the 1978 Ocean Plan and indicated the Regional Boards should commence implementing the Plan. Revision of Order No. 77-99 to conform with the 1978 Ocean Plan should provide the petitioner with a degree of relief regarding its concern. In any event, it would be inappropriate to attempt to anticipate and resolve any objections the petitioner might raise to modifications of the discharger's waste discharge requirements necessitated by the 1978 Ocean Plan.

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II. CONCLUSIONS

After consideration of this matter, we have concluded that Order No. 77-99 should be remanded to the Regional Board for modifications consistent with our discussion.

III. ORDER

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that Order No. 77-99 is remanded to the California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Los Angeles Region for modifications consistent with this Order.

Dated: JAN 25 1979

**ABSENT**

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John E. Bryson, Chairman

*W. Don Maughan*  
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W. Don Maughan, Vice Chairman

*William J. Miller*  
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William J. Miller, Member

*L. L. Mitchell*  
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L. L. Mitchell, Member